

# Dan Moller

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## **Appointments**

2013-present: Associate professor of philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park

2007-2013: Assistant professor of philosophy, University of Maryland, College Park

2005-2007: Postdoctoral Fellow, Berman Institute for Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University

## **Education**

2000-2005: Ph.D. in philosophy, Princeton University

1998-2000: B.Phil., philosophy, Oxford University (Balliol)

1993-1998: B.A., philosophy and English, minor in ancient Greek, Vassar College

## **Areas of research**

Moral & political philosophy; subsidiary interests in epistemology, aesthetics and philosophy of religion

## **Book**

*Justice and the Wealth of Nations: a New England Libertarianism*  
Oxford, forthcoming

This book takes a fresh look at economic justice through a libertarian lens. Libertarians of all stripes champion individual liberty and free markets, but the “New England” version that I defend is unusual in two respects. First, libertarianism is often presented as resting on very strong assumptions about individual rights. (E.g., “The state may not tax us because of our absolute right to private property.”) By contrast, the first part of the book argues that libertarianism emerges from everyday moral beliefs we have about what we can demand from one another. If we recognize even modest strictures on harm, if we acknowledge even easily defeated claims to ownership, we quickly run into at least a moderate libertarianism. This is because it turns out to be very hard to justify shifting our burdens onto others in the way that an expansive welfare state requires.

Second, political philosophy has become an increasingly narrow and insular field, disconnected from work in economics, history, and political practice. This book bucks that trend. In the second part, it shows how both economic theory and empirical research should influence our thinking about economic justice, for instance by illuminating the role that luck plays in wealth distribution, and the way in which economic growth is related to happiness. And in the third part, I consider economic history and disputes about how growth has been achieved, prompting calls for reparations in some quarters. Libertarians have often ignored these hard cases, but we can't make sense of economic justice without trying to resolve them. The book then concludes by considering two political questions. We will reject libertarianism if we interpret it as a political utopia, and many feel affronted by the politically incorrect discourse libertarians engage in, for instance when they seem to victim-shame. But neither of these makes for the kind of objection sometime supposed. Libertarians can be incrementalists, and there is no easy alternative to political incorrectness.

## Articles

“Love and the Rationality of Grief,” *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Love*, forthcoming.

“Dilemmas of Political Correctness,” *Journal of Practical Ethics* 4 (2016), 1-22.

“Property and the Creation of Value,” *Economics and Philosophy*, published online November 2015.

“Drunk and in the Mood: Affect and Judgment,” *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (2014), 1-21

“Justice and the Wealth of Nations,” *Public Affairs Quarterly* 28, (2014), 95-114.

“The Boring,” *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 72 (2014), 181-191.

“The Epistemology of Popularity and Incentives,” *Thought* 2 (2013), 148-156.

“Wealth, Disability and Happiness,” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 39 (2011), 177-206.

“Abortion and Moral Risk,” *Philosophy* 86 (2011), 425-443.

“Anticipated Emotions and Emotional Valence,” *Philosopher’s Imprint* 11 (July 2011), 1-16 (32 pages).

“A Simple Argument against Design,” *Religious Studies* 47 (2010), 513-520.

“Meta-reasoning and Practical Deliberation,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 79 (2009), 653-670.

“Love and Death,” *The Journal of Philosophy* 104 (2007), 301-316.

Reprinted in *Introduction to Philosophy* (ed. Perry, Fischer, Bratman, Oxford University Press, 7th ed.).

“Should We Let People Starve—For Now?” *Analysis* 66 (2006), 240-247.

“Killing and Dying,” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 43 (2006), 235-248.

“The Marriage Commitment—Reply to Landau,” *Philosophy* 80 (2005), 279-284.

“The Pyrrhonian Skeptic’s *Telos*,” *Ancient Philosophy* 24 (2004), 425-441.

“An Argument against Marriage,” *Philosophy* 78 (2003), 79-91.

“Parfit on Pains, Pleasures and the Time of their Occurrence,” *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 32 (2002), 67-82.

## Reviews

“Troy Jollimore, *Love’s Vision*,” *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 10 (2013), 686-688.

“Michael Zimmerman, *Living with Uncertainty*,” *Ethics* 119 (2009), 606-611.

## Presentations

“Property as a Moral Phenomenon” PPE Society, 2017

“Reparations for Historical Injustices,” University of Toronto, 2015

“Affect and Judgment” APA Pacific, 2015

Comments on Christian Miller “Should Christians be Worried about Situationist Claims in Psychology and Philosophy?”  
Georgetown University, 2014

“Love, Death and the Hedonic Treadmill,” Bergen University,  
Norway, 2014

“Rejecting Libertarianism: Harder than you Think” University of  
Michigan, Flint, 2014

“Welfare Theory and the Disability Paradox,” Symposium on  
disability, APA Central, 2013

Comments on Tomasz Zuradzki “Normative Uncertainty in  
Bioethics,” APA Pacific 2013

Session on my “Love and Death,” APA Pacific, 2011

“Evidence and Commitment,” Vassar College, 2009

“Evidence and Commitment,” University of Delaware, 2008

“Abortion and Moral Risk,” University of Vermont, UCSC, 2007

“Overdetermination and Morality,” University of Utah, 2005

## **Fellowships and prizes**

Research and Scholarship Award, 2015, University of Maryland  
Campus-wide competitive award for semester of research

Undergraduate Studies Faculty Fellow 2014-2015, University of  
Maryland

Greenwall Fellow, Berman Institute for Bioethics, Johns Hopkins,  
2005-2007

Graduate Prize Fellow, Center for Human Values, Princeton  
University, 2005

Overseas Research Scholarship, Oxford University, 1998-2000

Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 1998 (declined)

Phi Beta Kappa, Vassar College, 1998

National Merit Scholar, 1993-1998

## **Reviewer**

Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Princeton  
University Press, *Mind*, *Philosophical Studies*, *British Journal for  
the Philosophy of Science*, *Philosophical Psychology*, et al.

## **Recent teaching**

PHIL 848 - graduate seminar on libertarianism

PHIL 440 - seminar in contemporary ethical theory

PHIL 408 - seminar in political theory

PHIL 245 - social and political philosophy

PHIL 100 - introduction to philosophy (150 students)

### **Recent dissertation committees**

Christian Tarsney, “Normative Uncertainty”

Benedict Chan, “An East-West Debate on Human Rights”

Leland Saunders, “The Disunity of Moral Judgement: An Essay in Moral Psychology”

Chris Stevens, “Environmental Human Rights, Natural Law Theory, and Nature’s Aesthetic Value”

Ryan Fanselow, “Moral Intuitions and their Role in Justification”

### **Recent service**

Director of graduate studies, Director of graduate admissions,  
Graduate placement, University senate, Chair search committee,  
Student honor board